As a result of exploration efforts by MECL mineral reserves as per following details have been established:

State	Mineral	Reserves (in metric tones)	Grade
Arunachal Pradesh	Coal	55.73	Ungraded
	Quartzite	1.25	Ferrosillicon Grade
Assam	Coal	133.95	Ungraded
Meghalaya	Coal	79.46	Ungraded
	Limestone	229.97	Cement Grade
	Sillimanite	0.01	Grade-II
Nagaland	Coal	2.45	Ungraded
Sikkim	Polymetal	0.35	3.10% Cu & 0.99%Zn

The coal blocks are being developed by Coal India Ltd. while the polymetal deposits is being exploited by Sikkim Mining Corporation. The geotechnical investigations undertaken have facilitated selection of site for Dam(s) by respective State Government Organisations.

Joint ventures taken up by CIL for the production of coal

1666. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. is taking up new projects through joint venture for production of coal;

(b) if so, hour far the production capacity is expected to be expanded; and

(c) the steps taken to invite participants and the details of willing participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) is exploring different routes including joint venture route for development of new projects. Two opencast projects namely, Magadh and Amrapali in the command area of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have so far been identified for joint venture for production of coal.

(b) The annual production capacity of Magadh and Amrapali open case projects is 12.0 million tonnes of coal per year each.

(c) Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) has been appointed as consultant to advise the appropriate route for development of Magadh and Amrapali projects. A core group at CIL is also examining the various options for early implementation of the projects. Discussions have been held with representatives of various mining companies by the consultants.

Production of Aluminium

1667. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to increase the production of Aluminium and alumina;

(b) the achievement made in this regard in Eighth & Ninth plans; and

(c) the details of the contribution of NALCO thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) With a view to increase production of alumina and aluminium, the Government have decontrolled the aluminium sector, exempted it from the provisions of compulsory licensing and opened this sector progressively to private including foreign direct investment.

(b) and (c) In the 8th plan period, the total production of alumina in the country was 7971043 Metric Tonne (MT), and NALCO' contribution therein was about 50%. The total production of aluminium in the 8th plan period was 2478231 MT, with NALCO contributing about 39%. In the 9th plan period (upto 2000-01), the total production of alumina in the country was about 7812723 MT, and NALCO's contribution therein was about 46%. The total production of aluminium in the 9th plan period (upto 2001-02) was 2358496 MT, with NALCO contributing about 33%.

Gold and copper mines discovered near Ajmer

1668. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold and copper mines have been discovered near Ajmer in Hathipur village of Shrinagar Panchayat Samiti, as reported in the Asian Age dated 2nd September, 2001;